Connick: A Boost from the Lawyers

10/15/69

After it conducted its poll of members for their rating of candidates for district attorney in the November election, the New Orleans Bar Association reported these results: For Harry Connick, 450 votes; for Jim Garrison, 83; for Charles R. Ward, 68; for Ross J. Scaccia, 16.

Thus, among the voting members, Mr. Connick was favored nearly three to one over all the other candidates combined. About two-thirds of the associations total membership is said to have participated.

It is generally conceded that members of local bar associations are in position to know a good deal about the qualifications of fellow members who run for judicial office.

Mr. Garrison has been district attorney for nearly eight years. Many attorneys have had contact with him and all have had an opportunity to appraise his work. Overwhelmingly they have shown that they do not favor his continuance in office. Also, overwhelmingly, they have shown they believe that Harry Connick is a good man for the job.

We believe, as we have said before, that Mr. Garrison has misled the public and performed a gross disservice in office. To whatever extent the bar association vote means that lawyers of the city have made a similar estimate, their action is heartening for us.

On the other hand, the vote for Mr. Connick suggests to the people that they do not lack a good candidate who will honor the trust imposed by election to the high office of district attorney.